

Inside Wallops

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Wallops Employees Detailed to FEMA for Disaster Relief Effort

by Rebecca Hudson

After Hurricane Katrina demolished the Gulf Coast in late August, federal employees were permitted to become temporary Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) employees to help assist in the recovery and rebuilding efforts. Two Wallops employees, Gary Letchworth and Elaine Coward, answered the call.

Letchworth and Coward were sent to Atlanta, Ga., for an extensive training period. Meanwhile, another hurricane, Wilma, was brewing in the Gulf of Mexico, ultimately resulting in a path of destruction throughout south Florida.

Hurricane Wilma has been given the title of most intense Atlantic storm in recorded history, with its pressure dropping to 882 mbar. Intensity is determined and ranked by the hurricane's pressure; the lower the pressure, the more intense the storm.

By comparison, Hurricane Katrina's lowest pressure was recorded at 902 mbar and ranks 6th on the all-time most intense Atlantic hurricanes. Despite making landfall three times, the storm's intensity remained fierce.

spawned numerous tornadoes which added to the damage.

Letchworth and Coward and their separate teams were directed to southwest Florida, particularly Everglades City, where Wilma made final landfall. Letchworth's team located a roller skating rink that could be turned into a makeshift Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). The rink was flooded with water and mud after an approximate 8 foot storm surge moved through the town.

Letchworth's team worked to clean and dry out the rink so the DRC could be established. The purpose of the DRC was to assist displaced residents and residents with damages to their homes with the necessary paperwork that needs to be filed with FEMA in order to receive assistance.

The DRC has multiple stations within itself, so clients could receive a multitude of assistance in one visit. The team staffed the center seven days a week for approximately ten hours per day. The team would then have to commute nearly one hour to where they were housed.

Each worker had a personal reason for their time spent with FEMA. For Letchworth, it was due to his own personal experiences in the previous year. Prior to joining Wallops, he worked at the Kennedy Space Center.

"The last summer, I was hit by three hurricanes [in Florida] and the whole world came to help," he said.

Coward and a partner were originally tasked with working the community relations field. Simply put, this job required her to go door-to-door to notify people of the help they could receive from

FEMA. Along with informing people, they also were able to help people with their emergency needs.



Photo by G. Letchworth

"It was wonderful to see people helping each other," Coward said

Coward and her partner were sent to southeast Florida to set up another DRC, or as she describes, "A really big tent in a parking lot."

This DRC, like Letchworth's, helped people register for assistance or allowed them to check the status of their previously filed paperwork. Coward worked 7 days a week sometimes up to 16 hour days.

Letchworth and Coward were just two of the hundreds of government workers that spent a 30 day period working with FEMA.

The workers were employees from other NASA centers, the Department of Justice, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Labor and other government agencies. Letchworth was able to work alongside a NASA Kennedy Space Center employee, his wife Janet.

Letchworth is a Technical Manager in the Advanced Projects Office (Code 802) and Coward is an Aircraft Program Manager in the Aircraft Office (Code 830).



Photo by G. Letchworth

Although Wilma's winds peaked at 175 mph, it made landfall the final time in Florida with maximum sustained winds near 120 mph. The storm, packing extreme winds and torrential rain,

The Worst of Winter is Yet to Come

by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

Looking ahead to February, we can anticipate the worst month of winter with average highs falling to just above 40 degrees early in the month, climbing just above 50 degrees at the end February.

Minimum temperatures average around 28 degrees on the first and increase into the low 30's during mid-month and hold through the end of the month.

The all time high of 79 degrees has occurred on February 1, 2002, and on the 27th in 1997. The -4 degree reading on

February 2, 1971, is the coldest temperature recorded at Wallops for February.



Measurable precipitation normally falls on 10 days during the month bringing an average of 3.02 inches of rain to Wallops Flight Facility. We can also expect 3.82 inches of snow to fall on two days in February.

With the uncertainty of the changing weather patterns, we need to be prepared for the possibility of windy, wet and white conditions at any time during the remainder of winter.

Black History Club Award

The Wallops Black History Club is offering an Academic Achievement Award on a competitive basis to a son or daughter of a Wallops employee, (NASA, NOAA, MARS, Navy, Coast Guard or Contractor).

For more information or an application, contact Robert Tittle at x1244, Cheryl Johnson at x1607 or Rebecca Beach at x1559.

EAP Lunch & Learn

January 26
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Williamsburg Room – Building E2

Resolve to be Resolute in Your Resolutions

with Tom Northern, EAP Coordinator

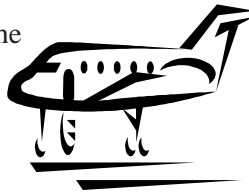
A new year has arrived and many people resolve to make positive changes. Unfortunately, they also set themselves up for failure instead of success.

This also is the time of year that people start thinking about spring-cleaning. Perhaps the former should follow the latter before making resolutions.

Think of spring-cleaning in the context of mental and emotional health. Resolve to break old dysfunctional patterns of behavior that are no longer serving you well. Taking a good inventory of one's self before making resolutions is a good way to be on target and avoid the failure trap.

NASA 8 Schedule

Mike Singer is now the contact person to schedule NASA-8 scheduler. Contact him on: (443) 783-0928 or by email: msinger@pop800.gsfc.nasa.gov



Thank you

I will be retiring, effective January 31. It has been my greatest pleasure to have worked with all of you. I cannot tell you how helpful you have been in my daily activities at WFF; without you by my side, I could not have accomplished so many diversified tasks. I will miss each and every one of you, and I wish you Godspeed.

Janie Penn

Property Notes for Government Equipment Users

by Terry Ewell

The NEMS Transaction Document Form 1602 should be filled out when any controlled or non-controlled property is turned in. The Current Equipment Location, Block 31, requires the building and room number where the equipment is physically located.

On the Report of Excess Property Form 20-9, under Contact and Location for Pickup, put the building and room number for the physical location of the excess property. Do not insert your building and room number unless this is where the excess property is physically located.

The person picking up the property is under no obligation to locate the property. The property custodian or the equipment user should know exactly where the excess equipment is located. If necessary, you or your representative may be asked to accompany Disposal personnel for the pickup, especially if the equipment is located in a secure area.

A pick-up date within three days is requested when the Disposal representative contacts you to schedule pick up. Unless arrangements have been made with Disposal personnel, accountability for the property will be placed back in the property custodian's account after the three day pick-up period.

The Disposal Office appreciates your cooperation. For further information or assistance call x1133.

For Sale

2000 Ford Explorer sport, blue, 6 cyl, 2 wheel drive, power windows and locks, cruise, am/fm/cd. 91,000 miles \$5500. Call 757 336-2477 after 5 p.m.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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